Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, During WWII the Brown County Chapter of the American Red Cross, located in Aberdeen, South Dakota, together with the USO and the citizens of Brown County and surrounding communities, provided assistance and delicious food to the many troops traveling through Aberdeen on special troop trains; and,

Whereas, Included in the food served were pheasant sandwiches and birthday cakes, and special Christmas boxes were also distributed as a result of donations by organizations and members of the community; and,

Whereas, The canteen served more than 586,000 troops during a 2½-year period from August 19, 1943, to March 22, 1946, without charge to the servicemen and women; and,

Whereas, The canteen became known worldwide for its pheasant sandwiches and other treats through word of mouth from the troops and their families; and,

Whereas, A celebration honoring all veterans and paying tribute to the many people who participated in making this canteen possible with donations, food and volunteer services is being held on March 22, 2006, 60 years after the canteen closed:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 22, 2006, as

RED CROSS PHEASANT CANTEEN DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-third Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Six.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State